



PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 47 NUMBER 8 August 1998

W6OTX

PAARAgraphs

Celebrating 61 years as a *real* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- Aug.....7, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM
- Aug.....12, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
Bakers Square Rest., 949 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City
(Temporary until Red Cross building repairs flood damage)
- Sept.....11, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- Sept.....16, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
- Oct.....7, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- Oct.....12, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
- Nov.....14, **PAARA Auction**
American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino, Redwood City



PROGRAM

August 7, 1998
7:30 P.M.

Speaker:

Rich Stiebel, W6APZ

"W6APZ REPEATER"

PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

MESSAGE FROM THE VEEP

Dave Bailey (WS6W),

Vice-President and Program Chairperson

The past couple of months have been very busy for PAARA. First, our picnic was held on May 23 at the QTH of **Ron (W6VG)** and **Helga Pantton**. Everyone had a good time, especially **Don (K6DPW)** and **Andy (VE3FZK)**, who won \$50 gift certificates to HRO as door prizes. Thanks to **Ron** and **Helga** for hosting us again this year.

June 13 was our Foothill Flea Market. The weather was perfect, and **Doug (K1DIT)** said that albeit the results are not complete, we expect about \$3500 profit. This is our big money-maker for the year, so thanks to all who showed up and worked.

June 27 and 28 was Field Day. We appreciate **Gerry (WA6LNV)** for taking charge of another successful Field Day, and thanks to all who operated and/or logged. Hopefully, we can keep the plaque for another year.

On a sad note, two of our members, **Sy Stein (WA6ROM)** and **Koert Koelman (KC6WCI)** became silent keys in the past month. Both of them were good friends of mine, and we are all sad that they are no longer with us.

Be sure to check in to the Monday Night Net at 8:30 p.m. on the **W6APZ** repeater (145.23 MHz) to hear all the latest information. Anyone who checks into the net at least 20 times in 1998 will receive an operating award. Last month, **Vic (AB6SO)**, **John (N6WBP)**, and **Dave (WS6W)** won operating awards.

Club member **Rich Stiebel (W6APZ)** will speak at our August 7 meeting about our repeater, which has his call sign. I hope to see you then.

73, **Dave Bailey (WS6W)**



Silent Key

Koert Koelman, KC6WCI

June 24, 1998

Miscellaneous Dates

Flea Market at Foothill (info at: <http://joslin.com/FleaMarket>)

Aug. 8 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)

Sep. 12 Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications Society (SPECS)

Oct. 10 Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (EMARC)

PAARA AUCTION

Nov 14, American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, Redwood City

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
 contact: Dave Bailey, WS6W 408 730 5215

EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
 contact: Sheldon Edelman 650-858-2176, Edelman@richochet.net

NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur
 8:00PM,
 contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month,
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation,

contact: Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 650-961-3266

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 MHz
 contact: Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, 408-243-6745 or 408-249-6909.

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact: Dick Collins K6ANN 650-593-8952

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.
 contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
 meets 3rd Wed every month.
 contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services,

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross

Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM,
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,
 contact: Alan Ball 650-688-0423.

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross

contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, 408 249 7093, fish@richochet.net

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM, 145.23-PL=100Hz

American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.

contact: Joe KB6OWG

NOTE: There will be a **VE Exam** held **October 4th**

at the Yacht Club in Redwood City.
 Details are available from Dan Cuny.

Bring a Show & Tell

to the next
PAARA meeting

PAARA MONDAY NIGHT NET

8:30 PM 145.230-600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

Latest news between monthly issues of PAARAgaph

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

President.....(vacant)

Vice President.....Dave Bailey, WS6W.....(408) 730 5215

Secretary.....Andreas Junge AD6FQ.....(650) 233 0843

Treasurer.....Doug Schliebus, K1DIT.....(650) 851 0727

Trustee/Property/Badges..Fred Canham, K6YT.....(650) 948 9238

ARES Officer.....Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM.....(650) 325 5484

Club Historian.....Steve Stuntz, K6FS.....(650) 322 4952

Advertising.....Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842

Webmaster.....Andreas Junge, AD6FQ.....(650) 233 0843

Board of Directors

Charles Grandjean, WD6FAF (408) 739 5185 '98

John Buonocore, KD6ZL (650) 366 1658 '99

Terry Conboy, N6RY (510) 944 5388 '99

Steve Stuntz, K6FS (650) 322 4952 '99

Vic Black, AB6SO, (650) 366 0636 Past Pres

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editor.....Wally Porter, K6URO.....(650) 494 7038

Database.....Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494

PAARAgaphs e-mail address: wmpor@com

Submit material for PAARAgaphs by the 15th

PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/index.html/>

THE WAY IT WAS

□ Charlie Grandjean, WD6FAF

Memory from my teens in the thirties include **W6OCH, LARRY BARTON**, who was the Chief chemist at the Clorox plant across the S.P. tracks from my Dad's chemical business on High Street in Oakland. Having become aware that I was a wannabe ham, he often would visit us at his break time to report his latest DX contacts. The one that lingers in my mind is Barbados! At that time I wasn't sure where that was, but my curiosity took me to a suitable source to pinpoint it on a map. Thus, I learned some geography along with the meaning of DX radio in the ham bands. Larry went on to be the subject of early antenna restriction activity by neighbors in a then-rural area of San Leandro where he attempted to put up a rhombic antennae array on his "farm". That was fifty years ago!

Another memorable event from those years was a visit to the QTH of a family friend, **JOHN WOERNER, W6ONQ**. In seeking advice as to my best choice of HF receiver to buy, I found John in his "shack" in the spacious basement of his parents' home on Staten Avenue in Oakland. Always having had the best toys John then had assembled an impressive ham station which he demonstrated by brightly lighting the area as he keyed up a pair of Eimac 450TH tubes whose tantalum plates became white hot under transmitting loads. My knowledge of advanced tube design and construction was greatly enhanced during that visit. Incidentally, the HF receiver I bought was Hammerlund's HQ120X purchased from **BOB HENRY, W9ARA** of Butler, Missouri. *History!*





WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO

I normally review web sites each month and don't linger too long on any one site. This month is a little different. I've always enjoyed the web site maintained at <http://web.utk.edu/~cebik/radio.html> by L. B. Cebik W4RNL from Knoxville, Tennessee. The site is especially heavy on antenna design and includes links to other well known antenna experts. There are also important articles about amateur radio philosophy and history. One piece in particular caught my eye. In granting permission to reprint the article, L.B. stated, "I only hope that it captures a tiny portion of the spirit of amateur radio that we all share."

Why Call "CQ"? by L. B. Cebik, W4RNL

This morning (June 19, 1998), a thoughtful and oddly interesting question arrived via e-mail: what is the deepest reason for someone to call "CQ" when that person has no idea of who may answer or whether anyone will answer at all? The following notes were my reply.

Peter, I do not know if there is any single deepest reason for calling "CQ." I can only guess at such deep motivations, but here are a few thoughts.

For the brand new ham, there is a sense of wonder at the possibility of having a radio signal actually being heard and responded to. That alone is enough motivation to try, just to see what happens. In a way, it parallels the SETI project efforts to listen to outer space, just in case there is something to be heard and the efforts to place special identifying materials on some deep probe space craft, just in case someone out there may someday find the probe.

I also suspect that as the new ham becomes experienced, two things happen. First, wonder turns into curiosity, especially as replies become routine, but from where they come and from whom they come remain unknowns until the reply actually happens. Second, the first response has an excitement that can become addictive in the sense of one wanting to repeat the first experience over and over again.

Although subsequent experiences are never quite like the first, since they do not have that initial anxiety of the totally unknown attached, new adventures into calling "CQ" have new dimensions, especially the human dimension. Every reply creates a new strand in a web of links among widely separated but still kindred spirits. Amateur radio, despite its internal disputes and diversity of activities, is still a community of human beings that cuts across all divisions of race, nationality, religion, and other things that divide us around the world. A "CQ" knows no such boundaries: our mutual interest in radio communications does not even break barriers: the barriers are simply not there. (I am sure this is truer in your region of the world, where boundaries are close in, than in the US, where a ham might spend his entire career talking only to folks within his own country.)

Interest in radio communications may offer a further contributing factor to the motivation for calling "CQ." Such interest tends to mark a person out as an individual, someone a little different from most of his or her friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Hence, there is a natural desire for camaraderie, a sense that one is not alone, but linked to a community. That is why hams tend to form clubs and anticipate "eye-ball QSOs." That same urge for linkage results in calling "CQ" as an invitation to and a hope for a new strand in the linkage that tells us we are not alone and that hence gives meaningfulness to all our efforts to master the art, science, and craft of radio communications.

Linkage to a community brings out in us at least two different and opposing urges, and they occur in different proportions in different individuals. One urge is to compete with others in our broad community. so we compete in contests for points or for countries worked, or for anything else. The other urge is to help, aid, assist any other member of the community who needs what we may have to offer: advice, knowledge, materials, other links we may have to services not available—the list is endless. The only condition I have ever known a true ham to place on rendering assistance was this: NOT that the recipient repay, but rather that the recipient be prepared to assist some other who may someday need what can be rendered.

Both of these twin urges make calling "CQ" more meaningful, for we may never know in advance whether we might receive a reply that either helps our score or gives us an opportunity to help someone else.

I personally believe that the most mature reason for calling "CQ" is the chance to be of assistance, even if that is only to give another the pleasure of a QSO, but more if the one who replies needs more. That is why I maintain my web site—it is one way in which I can help those in our community of hams who may need what is there.

There are, I am sure, those who would like to invert my remarks by leaning too heavily on the idea of being alone and seeing the "CQ" as a way to merely relieve loneliness. But I think one can only make this move at the expense of ignoring the initial sense of wonder and the more mature and thoughtful dimensions of being a ham and calling "CQ." It is at root not a demand for an answer, but an invitation to communicate, and that communication is a sharing. Sometimes we share only perfunctory data; sometimes we share news, information and ideas; sometimes we share joys and successes; and sometimes we share needs and solutions. In short, we share all that makes us a community, although not too much at any one time. Granted, some few may make "CQ" into a demand for reply, or even into a desperate plea for a reply, but for most, it is an invitation and a question: How can I assist?

I do not know if this is responsive to your question, but it is how I think about "CQ." In fact, over my 45 years as a ham, I have not too often called "CQ" myself (except to see if a quiet band had any listeners). Instead, I have tended to listen for "CQ's" and replied to them. Listening is also a way of being ready to serve. -73- LB, W4RNL. Updated 6-20-98. c L. B.

(Continued on page 66)Wanderingss

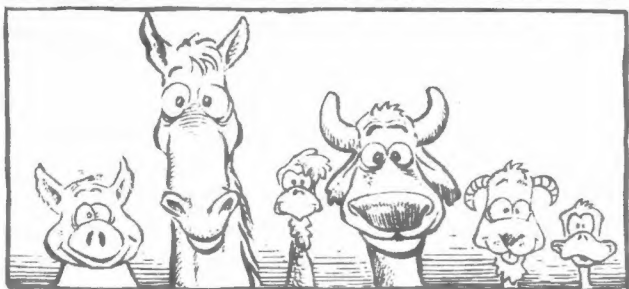
(Continued from page 65) *Wanderings*

Cebik, W4RNL. Data may be used for personal purposes, but may not be reproduced for publication in print or any other medium without permission of the author.

You may recognize **Richard Fisher NU6SN**, formerly **KI6SN**, as the editor of *Worldradio* magazine's monthly QRP column since 1993 and the Members' News in *QRP Amateur Radio Club International's QRP Quarterly* since 1992. He is currently deputy features editor at the Riverside, CA Press-Enterprise (170,000 circulation daily). In an e-mail message, Executive Editor and Membership Chairman Richard encourages us to read the latest issue of *Adventure Radio Society's* new free web magazine, *The ARS Sojourner*. The latest monthly edition is posted on the ARS web site at <http://www.natworld.com/ars>. If you missed the inaugural May '98 edition or subsequent editions, they're accessible by clicking on ARS Archives at the Sojourner site. The web page states, "ARS promotes a sense of adventure by supporting radio operation from beautiful and remarkable places. We sponsor events that encourage the use of human-powered travel, in its myriad forms, to reach outdoor operating sites. We support the development of imaginative equipment and antennas." The idea is to enjoy ham radio in the great outdoors while treading lightly on the terrain. To this end some of their contests award ecology points multipliers inversely proportional to the weight of the station. In other words, the lighter your station, the higher your points per pound multiplier! :-). ☺☺☺ —**Vic, AB6SO**

PAARA SIG's (Special Interest Groups)

There has been limited response to "Special Interest Groups". If you are interested in helping develop this idea contact our VP, **Dave Bailey, WS6W**



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball
QSO August 7th
gab & gobble

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant
 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
 —across from Kepler's Book Store—



PAARA PONDERINGS

de **VIC BLACK, AB6SO**

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of two PAARA members. On Sunday, June 21, **Sy Stein WA6ROM** became a **Silent Key** at age 84. On Wednesday, June 24, former PAARA President **Koert Koelman KC6WCI** became a **Silent Key** at age 55. Our warmest sympathy is extended to the families of Sy and Koert during this time of great loss.

Saeko Izuta (Rausch) N6SXQ, wife of former PAARA President **Bill Rausch AA6PA**, reports that Bill is recovering quickly from surgery. **Pat Gormley KB6HJM** is home after a recent hospitalization for multiple sclerosis. Our wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Bill and Pat.

Licensing and upgrading are continuing unabated. On June 20 PAARA Secretary and Field Day CW Captain **Andreas Junge** passed the last hurdle, the written test, on his way to Extra Class. Say "bye, bye" to **KF6NEB** and **KQ6WL** and "hello" to **AD6FQ**.

John Larribeau N6WBP aced the Advanced Class written test June 6, his Extra Class written exam June 13 and 13 wpm code test June 20 to earn an Advanced Class ticket. A little time on the air should allow John to pass the 20 wpm test for Extra Class, his ultimate goal. John set up and operated PAARA's VHF station alone during Field Day.

But, wait! Here's more Field Day Fallout. **Kevin Gehrke KF6MBG**, who operated CW for the PAARA Field Day, upgraded to Advanced Class **KQ6TV** June 18, and Extra Class a week after Field Day. New callsign: **AD6FV**, effective July 10. **Jon Zweig KF6OLA** got his code speed up for his 20 wpm test and passed the Advanced Class written exam following Field Day. Final stop for Jon is the Extra Class written exam.

New PAARA member **George Callas KF6RPK** passed his Tech Class exam, bought a radio and headed out for a DXpedition to Alaska all in one day. Whew!

Dennis Freeman KF6OHO, a new General Class June 6, reports that his wife and daughter attended a weekend ham class in Loma Mar and became Tech Class hams on June 21. Dennis says, "Wife, **Ginger**, is **KF6RTL** (KF6RealToughLady) and daughter, **Robin**, is **KF6RTK** (KF6RealToughKid)." The class produced 22 new hams (with consecutive callsigns!!) from the communities of Loma Mar, Pescadero, Half Moon Bay and La Honda, which were hit extremely hard by last winter's storms.

The class, intended to improve emergency preparedness for the communities, was coordinated by **Brad Grimm KF6OWP** to fulfill his Boy Scout public service requirement on the way to Eagle rank. Brad's mom **Robin KF6DSM**, along with **Dianna Killeen KB6NAN**, were the only links to civilization for their towns for several weeks during the winter storms. Brad, a

(Continued on page 69) *Ponderings*

Field Day June 26-27-28

Field day report: Well there's another field day under our belt! I hope I'm not going through last year's excuses for things not going smoothly. We did actually have an organizational meeting early in June, but the June flea market and a week of flu afterward kind of took the wind out of my field day sails. A shoestring catch was made at the last minute by landing a CW captain in **Andreas, AD6FQ** and a Novice/Technician Plus station captain in **Don, KF6JMQ**. Special thanks to **Don** who setup a great station completely independent (as is required). I always enjoy seeing the N/T operators getting some field day "DX" that they don't usually get from home. I spotted a 2a-PAC, 3a-MT, and a 3a-AZ among the SC. messages. Hope you had fun **Don**!

But back to the beginning. Friday setup dawned fairly cool. Heat has always been the enemy of a good setup! A good crowd showed up, **Tom KB6JBR**; **Terry, N6RY**; **Don, K6DPW**; **Dan, W7DR**; the entire CW team, **Fred, K6YT** of course, **Bob Tucker, NC**; and many others I can't recall, (having lost the Friday and Saturday sign-up sheets).

We put up the three mono banders, 15m (never used), 20m, and the 40m 3 element KLM. This is the second year in a row for the 40m beam and it was again satisfying to see it up there in spite of the tremendous effort. The CW tent had the triband Mosley, powered by the TS-930, this time with the crystals working! **John, N6WBP** showed up with the entire VHF operation which included a beautifully customized light weight tower. **Jeff, N6WLA** after getting stuck in traffic Friday, delivered the PE95 generator (backup) on Saturday morning.

Steve, AD6AB started off the phone effort as he has for several years. **Dave WS6W** put in some long hours as I did. Phone got 1140 QSO's, some of it on the 40m beam. The CW team picked up 333 Q's with 158 on the 40m beam. Not the 775 of last year, but a credible showing never the less. The CW group provided the natural power credit, with a short stint on the hand crank generator. **Fred, K6YT** logged our extra credit wlaw message. Unfortunately, **Bill AA6PA**, at the last minute was unable to provide the satellite

effort, so some bonus points were missed there. Also I neglected to provide for a message to the SM, so more bonus points were missed!

All together we submitted claimed score of 3756 points plus 500 bonus points. Watch for the November QST FD results. Special thanks to **Lars AA6IW** for aligning our patron's satellite dish. It is hard to return the favors the **School's** do for us every year and it was a treat to hear their thanks heaped on **Lars'** magic touch. Hope everyone had a good time, lets do it again next year!

de, WA6LNV

Do not write above this line.



FIELD DAY

1. Field Day call used W6OTX
2. Club or group name Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assn
3. Field Day location End of Bay Road, East Palo Alto
4. ☒ Began set-up prior to 1800 UTC Saturday
5. Number of people participating in this operation 36
6. Number of transmitters in simultaneous operation 2
7. ARRL/Canadian section SCV, Santa Clara Valley

8. Entry class (check only one)

- ☒ A. Club or non-club group portable
☐ B. Non-club portable ☐ 1 op ☐ 2 op
List operators _____

- ☐ C. Mobile
☐ D. Home station (commercial power)
☐ E. Home station (emergency power)

9. Power Source

- ☒ Generator
☐ Commercial mains
☐ Battery
☐ Other

10. Call sign of Novice/Technician station (Class 2A and above) KF6JMQ

12. Total CW QSOs 333 × 2 = 666
Total Digital QSOs _____ × 2 = 1212
Total phone QSOs 1140 × 1 = _____
Total QSO points _____

13. Total QSO points 1878 × Power Multiplier (5 W or less, × 5; 150 W or less, × 2; over 150 W, × 1) 2
equals Claimed Score (less bonus points) 3756

14. Bonus Points

Attach proof required for all bonus points claimed. All bonus points will be added at ARRL HQ.

- ☒ 100% Emergency power ☐ Message origination to SM ☐ Satellite
☐ Media publicity ☒ WIAW Field Day message ☒ Natural power
☐ Location in public place ☐ Messages relayed (no.) _____
☐ Information booth ☐ Other _____

15. "I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee."

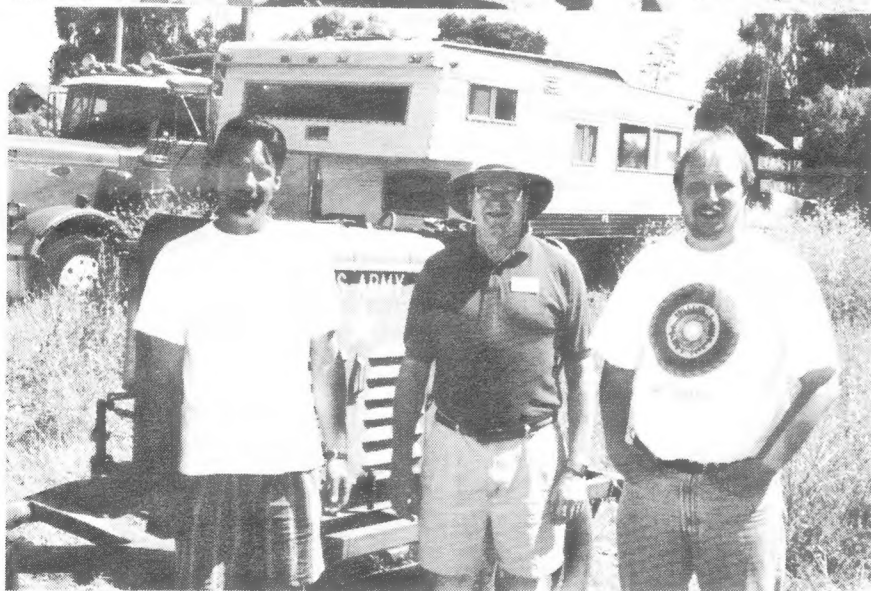
Date 30 July 98 Signature Gerald H Tucker Call WA6LNV
(signature/club or club president) FDC

16. Full mailing address (please print)

Name Gerald H Tucker Call WA6LNV
Address 1112 Ramona St
Palo Alto CA 94301

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Power Output	QSOs	Power Output	QSOs	Power Output
180						
80	7	<90			125	<90
40	157	<90			94	<90
20	157	<90			793	<90
15	17					
10						
5					60	<50
2					57	<50
220	Other				6	<50
440	Other				10	<50
	333	CW QSOs		Digital QSOs	1140	Phone QSOs
		Novice CW QSOs		Novice Digital QSOs	72	Novice Phone QSOs
	333	Total CW QSOs		Total Digital QSOs	1140	Total Phone QSOs

Field Day June 26-27-28



(Continued from page 66) Ponderings

ham for only 6 months, is now on a DXpedition to Alaska.

The PAARA Awards Program has been quite successful. During 1997 the club presented 21 award certificates to operators who checked into the Monday night PAARA Net 20 or more times during the calendar year. This year (26 weeks into the year) 3 operators have qualified for the award including **Dave Bailey WS6W**, **John Larribeau N6WBP** and **Vic Black AB6SO**. Several others are close to qualifying.

Our Special Event Station to honor the men and women of the 129th Air Rescue Wing of the Air National Guard resulted in 9 certificates in 1997. Four operators qualified for the 60/60 Award by working at least 60 simplex contacts during the last half of 1997 to commemorate PAARA's 60th Anniversary. Three stations requested certificates after our 60th Anniversary Special Event Station.

This year's Air National Guard Special Event Station July 12 will result in many requests for QSL certificates. We were authorized by the FCC to use special call sign, **N6M**, for National Guard at Moffett. The event, publicized in QST and World Radio magazines, will please certificate collectors. Contacts were made on seven bands from 20 meters through 1.2 GHz minus 220 and 900 MHz.

We worked stations all over the US. DX included Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Hungary, Brazil, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Paraguay, Aruba and others. All operation was from a portable field station. Operators were **Steve Stuntz K6FS**, **Don Trask KF6JMQ**, **Dennis Freeman KF6OHO**, **Paul West KQ6WN**, **Andy Korsak VE3FZK**, **Dave Bailey WS6W**, **Terry Conboy N6RY** and **Vic Black AB6SO**. This was a good public showcase for Amateur Radio and resulted in several requests for licensing and instructional information. Several young teenage visitors had read "Now You're Talking" in the library, but didn't know how to contact any hams. Actually operating on local VHF was a very positive activity for them. Thanks to all the operators who stood by to work them on local repeaters.

Contests: some people hate them and some people love them. No matter how you feel about them, contests have some redeeming features. Originally called tests, they were meant to test our ability to operate under less than ideal conditions. Some, such as Field Day, still do that. They allow you to make a lot of contacts to check the coverage of your station. Contests are a good way to earn awards such as Worked All States, DXCC, VUCC, etc. Operators who ordinarily may choose not to talk to you will call during a contest since all contacts count for points. Even more importantly, contests bring out a lot of operators on a regular basis as a display of how much activity

there can be on the ham bands. This may help save our bands from overzealous legislators who love to sell spectrum to the highest bidders. And yes, contests are a lot of fun.

Perusing contest results shows PAARA members are quite active for a non-contesting club. The 1997 ARRL 10-Meter Contest final results were just published. For Santa Clara Valley Section, **Kit Kohlmoos W6ISO** placed first for Mixed Mode, Low Power. **Vic Black AB6SO** was second for Phone Only, Low Power with **Rich McAllister K6RFM** third for CW Only, Low Power. There were no QRP entries in the section (Mixed Mode, Phone Only or CW Only). There's a clue as to how YOU can win a class in this year's contest scheduled for 12-13 December, 1998. The 10-Meter Contest is a perfect HF test for Tech Plus and Novice Class operators.

ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone results for Santa Clara Valley Section list **Rich McAllister K6RFM** seventh in Low Power with **Kit Kohlmoos W6ISO** and **Jack Troster W6ISQ** ninth and 24th in High Power. June QST reported the 1998 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes results. **Mike Leland KD6PIW** made the strategic decision to enter the QRP Category resulting in First Place for Santa Clara Valley Section with a 6 and 2 meter entry. **Vic Black AB6SO** was seventh for the section with a 5 band Single Operator entry.

From ARRL Pacific Division Director **Brad Wyatt K6WR**: "Effective July 1, **Geoffrey Ellis, KD6MFM**, will assume the position of SCV Section Manager, replacing **Kit Blanke, WA6PWW**. Thanks to Kit for his years of service as SM, and welcome to Geoff!"
73, **Vic AB6SO**



SAYS HE'S MAD BECAUSE HE CHOSE THAT SPOT AS A "FIELD DAY" SITE, AND NONE OF THE CLUB MEMBERS SHOWED UP

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. • Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off. • Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter). • Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

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FIELD DAY '98 CW STATION

—Andreas Junge, AD6FQ

I was appointed captain of the PAARA FD CW station by **Gerry, WA6LNV**. Maybe that is the only way to get things done. Well, the 1998 Field Day was my first and boy it was impressive to see how Gerry conducted the FD setup. Everything went smoothly and an antenna farm was put up within a few hours. All CW operators I called and asked to join PAARA's FD showed up on Friday and helped to setup the station. **Fred, K6YT** did an enormous amount of work, which should have been done by us younger people!

The CW station was in a tent about 10 feet from the water, with a tower next to it. On the tower we had a tri-band beam for 10/15/20m and dipoles for 40m and 80m. We started out on 20m and late Saturday night we "borrowed" the 3 element 40m beam from the SSB station. Almost half of our contacts were made on 40m. Watching **Dave Rice W6NUC** and **Dan Ramsey W7DR** operate I have to say that I have a lot to learn. I hope I can get my code speed up to par for next year's FD.

Dan and Dave met for the first time at the PAARA field day and found out that both of them had tried to get the same vanity call sign since they have the same initials. Paul West **KQ6WN** decided to become a PAARA member while working the CW station with us. Welcome to PAARA, Paul! Jon Zweig **KF6OLA** joined us to operate the CW station Saturday afternoon.

The barbecued steaks and salads we had for dinner were excellent and made FD feel like a real camping trip. Good idea **Gerry!**

After a long night operating FD was finally over and a long day of tear down lay ahead of us. It is nice to have all the toys out there but Newton was right: What goes up must come down! **Vic Black AB6SO** surprised us with his expertise in cooking hot dogs and the timing was just right. Thanks **Vic**, you saved us from starving! It took us until 4 p.m. Sunday to get everything packed up and we finally went home. Yes, the cold shower after coming home was almost as good as the whole field day!

I want to say thanks to **Kevin Gehrke KQ6TV**, **Dave Rice W6NUC**, **Paul West KQ6WN**, **Jon Zweig, KF6OLA** and **Dan Ramsey W7DR** for being there for setup, operating and tear down. From what I've heard, we had a lot of fun and some of us made new friends - that is what FD is all about.

73, **Andreas, AD6FQ**

Join Us At The Next
PAARA Meeting

August 7, 7:30

FIELD DAY COMMENTS FROM A NEW KID

—Don Trask, KF6JMQ

A few observations/comments from a newer member. I was captain of the Novice station for the 1998 Field Day at Cooley Landing. My first reaction during Friday's setup was that the 40-meter beam was the most metal I'd ever seen put up in the sky that didn't have an engine attached. My second reaction was that without **Tucker**, there wouldn't be a Field Day (for PAARA). My third reaction was that at least one person should be assigned to work with **Fred K6YT** - he was doing too much for his age. He struggled valiantly without bothering anyone. During Sunday afternoon's teardown, he struggled trying to lift gas cans into his truck until someone noticed and waded in to help. My fourth reaction was that there was damn little help from the membership during the teardown. People who had been working through the night with little sleep were also the ones doing the teardown. There should have been a whole flock of folks rolling in for that. I can understand a person not liking to do contests but coming in for an hour or two at either end doesn't ask much of the membership. My fifth reaction was that I really liked those Miller hot-dogs and I'm not a hot-dog fan. My Lab Embers sends her regards to those folks who shared their hot-dogs with her during Sunday's lunch. I expected to see members bringing in family and friends. I didn't see much of that. I expected to see young people, especially Boy Scouts, being brought in to observe the wonders of ham radio. I didn't see much of that. I expected to learn a lot. I did. I expected to have fun. I did. I expected to be excited about talking to Montana and Idaho and El Paso and Hawaii. I DID! Special thanks to **Bob KD6KYT** for coming in Saturday to help me get started and working a long day on the station.

—De Don, KF6JMQ

Saturday July 18 VE session in Redwood City was headed up by **VE Gordon Girtton W6NW**. Our usual honcho **Joe Horne Sr, KB6OWG** was on vacation. We had the fine help of **Dan Curry WB6STW** (who is working a lot of Europeans these days (and evenings) on 20 meters, **Bill Sooman WB6UVO** with CW testing, **Al Montoya WB6IMX**, **Gene Irazarry KK6LO**, and **Ron Panton W6VG**. Most of the applicants passed their tests, but there was a sparse gathering of applicants this hot Saturday. Congratulations to **Jamie Sidells** who passed both the novice and technician tests. Thank goodness the building was open and available to us on this date. There will be a **VE test held October 4th** at the Yacht Club in Redwood City. Details are available from **Dan Curry. 73.**

—Ron, W6VG



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